

Dear Sir/Madam:

I am writing this filing to express my concern over certain ideas and conclusions that have been presented in proceeding 02-230 regarding the Broadcast Flag issue and its relevance to the transition to digital television (DTV) in America. I write this correspondence as a consumer, a blue collar American worker, and as a father whose hope for his child relies on our country preserving its legacy of freedom and the American dream.

Contrary to suggestions included in proceeding 02-230, the transition to DTV has not been hindered because content providers have been reluctant to provide material without digital rights management (DRM). Such a hypothesis is most certainly a farse given efforts to enact governmental regulations aimed at gauranteeing the establishment of a powerful, yet wholly unregulated, national industry. Television as it is today provides no copy protection, yet there is no dearth of content. That, in and of itself, proves the sentiment above to be misguided. In fact, the prevalence of the home video recorder in American living rooms belies any such claim that content providers require content management to survive in the open market, forget the fact that home video recording equipment production has developed into an industry in and of itself. By the guiding hand of the free market, content providers will produce high quality digital content for television when consumers demand it and will accept none other.

There is no mandate for such regulation as the Broadcast Flag issue, and there is no saleable avenue by which to present such a work to the American people as something that is in the best interest of the country. The fact of the matter is, DTV rollout has been slow due to the expense of HDTV equipment to the American consumer, and the general satisfaction with existing television broadcast technology. Manufacturer and retailer propaganda has clearly illustrated the superiority of the high definition format to the American consumer, yet in our current state of economy, the American consumer simply cannot afford to sacrifice the amounts required for DTV hardware. In simpler words, nobody is going take out a loan simply to purchase a television. Take heed not to enact regulations that our nation cannot afford during this troubled time, and take action to preserve the free enterprise that has built our nation from a dream.